

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

1-137. (canceled)

138. (currently amended) An ~~humanized~~ antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 β , comprising a light chain variable region and a heavy chain variable region selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a light chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:60 and a heavy chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:55;

(b) a light chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:61 and a heavy chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:56;

(c) a light chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:62 and a heavy chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:57;

(d) a light chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:63 and a heavy chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:58; and,

(e) a light chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ encoded by the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:64 and a heavy chain variable region ~~comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:59.

139. (currently amended) An ~~humanized~~ antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 β , comprising a light chain and a heavy chain wherein the amino acid sequences of the light and heavy chains are selected from the group consisting of:

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- (a) a light chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:46 and a heavy chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO: 45;
- (b) a light chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:47~~8~~ and a heavy chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO: 48~~7~~;
- (c) a light chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:48 and a heavy chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:68;
- (d) a light chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:49~~50~~ and a heavy chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:50~~49~~;
- (e) a light chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:54~~2~~ and a heavy chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO: 52~~1~~; and,
- (f) a light chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:53~~4~~ and a heavy chain ~~comprising an amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:54~~3~~.

140. (currently amended) An humanized antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that specifically binds human IL-1 β , comprising a light chain and a heavy chain, wherein the amino acid sequence of the said antibody has a light chain is given by of SEQ ID NO: 48 and the amino acid sequence of the a heavy chain is given by of SEQ ID NO:68.

141. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 138.

142. (withdrawn) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 141.

143. (withdrawn) A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 142.

144. (withdrawn) A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 143 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

145. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 138.

146. (withdrawn) A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 138.

147. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid, comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 139.

148. (withdrawn) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid according to Claim 147.

149. (withdrawn) A host cell stably transfected with the expression vector of Claim 148.

150. (withdrawn) A process for producing an antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, comprising cultivating the host cell of Claim 149 and recovering the polypeptide encoded by said polynucleotide from the culture.

151. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof of Claim 139.

152. (withdrawn) A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the antibody or antigen binding portion thereof, of Claim 139.